

## REMARKS

Claims 8, 9, 11, 18, 19 and 23 have been amended. The amendments to the claims are supported by the specification, at least at p. 5, line 31 – p. 6, line 21; p. 7, lines 23 – 31; p. 18, line 17 – p. 19, line 8; p. 29, lines 20 – 26; p. 36, lines 3-17; and p. 60, lines 9-24. New claims 24 – 39 have been added. No new matter has been added. Claims 8-11, 18, 19 and 22-39 are pending in this application.

### Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

#### Rejection over Kawano et al.

Claims 8-11, 18, 19, 22 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Kawano et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,478,631). The Office Action asserts that Kawano et al. discloses a nonwoven fabric with a coating containing a 2-methacryloyloxyethylene trimethyl ammonium compound, and that this compound is equivalent to the triggerable cationic polymer containing quaternary ammonium groups. Based on this alleged equivalence, the Office Action asserts that it is inherent that the coating of Kawano et al. possesses solubility and pH properties as claimed.

The rejection of the claims as anticipated by Kawano et al. has been obviated by appropriate amendment. As amended, independent claims 8, 9, 11, 19 and 23 recite fabrics, substrates or wipes that are not dispersible in a wetting solution but that are dispersible in tap water. Independent claim 18 as amended recites a fabric that has wet strength in an aqueous solution containing an insolubilizing agent and that is dispersible in hard or soft water. Thus, a fibrous material combined with a binder containing a cationic copolymer can provide for a product that has dispersibility properties that vary depending on the concentration of an insolubilizing agent or a salt. In particular, the claimed products are dispersible in tap water or in hard or soft water.

In contrast, Kawano et al. discloses an ink receptive layer on a substrate, where the ink receptive layer is *resistant to water*. Table 2 of Kawano et al. provides results for the water resistance of the ink receptive layer and the water resistance of an image recorded in ink on the layer. The layers of Examples 13-17 and 21-24 are reported in this table as having very strong resistance to water, which is in opposition to the water dispersibility recited in the claims. The layer formulations of these examples include the cationic polymer referred to in the Office Action. Kawano et al. cannot disclose each and every element of the claims, as the reference teaches products that are resistant to water, rather than being dispersible. Thus, claims 8-11, 18, 19, 22 and 23 are not anticipated by Kawano et al., and Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

#### **Rejection over Swisher et al.**

Claims 8-10, 19, 22 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Swisher et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,265,049). The Office Action asserts that Swisher et al. discloses a nonwoven fabric with a coating containing a 2-methacryloyloxyethylene trimethyl ammonium compound, and that this compound is equivalent to the triggerable cationic polymer containing quaternary ammonium groups. Based on this alleged equivalence, the Office Action asserts that it is inherent that the coating of Swisher et al. possesses solubility and pH properties as claimed.

The rejection of the claims as anticipated by Swisher et al. has been obviated by appropriate amendment. As amended, independent claims 8, 9, 19 and 23 recite fabrics, substrates or wipes that are not dispersible in a wetting solution but are dispersible in tap water. In contrast, Swisher et al. does not disclose a product that is dispersible in tap water. There is no disclosure in Swisher et al. regarding the dispersibility of products that have been coated with the disclosed coating composition. The only disclosure regarding a change in solubility properties is found in the discussion of "insolubilizers" at col. 12, lines 18-50. However, these insolubilizers are actually

reactive agents that provide permanent crosslinking. Thus, the polymer in the coating composition of Swisher et al. can be applied easily in a dissolved or dispersed form and then made insoluble or non-dispersible after the coating is applied. A cured coating such as this would not become dispersible upon removal or dilution of the insolubilizer. That is, the dispersibility of the coated substrate of Swisher et al. is not dependent on the concentration of a salt or of an insolubilizing agent at a given time. Moreover, the product of Swisher et al. is disclosed as being compatible with an aqueous treatment. As disclosed at col. 15, lines 25-51, an overcoating may be applied as an aqueous mixture onto a substrate that has previously been coated with the coating composition of Swisher et al. There is no mention of any concerns regarding the dispersion of the coated product in the presence of this aqueous medium.

Swisher et al. does not disclose each and every element of the claims, as the reference does not disclose products that are not dispersible in a wetting solution but are dispersible in tap water. Accordingly, Swisher et al. cannot anticipate claims 8-10, 19, 22 and 23, and Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

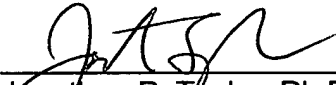
### CONCLUSION

In conclusion, all of the grounds raised in the present Office Action for rejecting the application are believed to be overcome or rendered moot based on the remarks above. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently presented claims are in form for allowance, and such action is requested in due course. Should the Examiner feel a discussion would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned.

Submitted herewith is a Request for Continued Examination pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.114, and a Petition for Extension of Time for two (2) months.

Respectfully submitted,

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